and Rs. 24,072.61 crores respectively. The Budget Estimates for 1999-2000 provides Rs. 27,964.14 crores. The channels of purchases are through Public Sector Undertakings, Ordnance Factories, indigenous as well as foreign private suppliers and Government owned foreign trading Agencies. The names of idigenous and foreign companies with whom major contracts have been entered into during the past so many years are under process of compilation for submission to C&AG and CVC.

Army Ultimatum for Handing over the Road at Hakimpet

609. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army posted in IEME centre, Secunderabad, issued an ultimatum to hand over 3.5 kilometer stretch of road at Hakimpet;

(b) whether the road connects Karimnagar Highway at Shingaipally; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to extend the deadline till an alternative to the road is found?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (c) A kachha unmettled track falling in the danger zone of Army Firing Rang^ in Secunderabad connects Karimnagar Highway at Shingaipally. The CRPF is presently using this track. Since use of the track by CRPF is adversely affecting operation of the Firing Range, it has been agreed by CRPF and Government of Andhra Pradesh to construct an alternative road for use of the latter by 30.9.2000. Army has not given any ultimatum for handing over 3.5 km of this track.

Proposal to Buy Tanks from Russia

610. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposed to buy 300 tanks from Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the delivery is expected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is a proposal for procurement of Tanks from Russia, subject to